

Minutes of October 30, 2015 AFT Board Meeting

The Board of Directors met on October 30, 2015 at 2:00 PM.

The following attended:

Magali Bergolla, Executive Director

Nina Pitzer, Member at Large

Rosann Gonzalez, Treasurer

Mary Carryer, Member at Large

Dianne Janis, Secretary

Rebecca McSwain, Vice-President

Octavio Armendariz, Recording Secretary

Rebecca called the meeting to order.

Rosann moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting and Octavio seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved unanimously.

Magali asked whether we should keep the movie night.

Diane suggested that we incorporate classic films into the movie night as a way to attract film buffs.

Magali countered that people may have already seen those films at the Loft. She said that she would incorporate a classic movie beginning in January 2015.

Rosann asked whether the attendance for the films was mostly members or non-members. Magali replied that we even had students from the UofA

Magali said that so far we had had no response regarding the Martinique trip. According to her, four people definitely intended to go.

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Rebecca asked if there was another outlet for publicizing the trip. Magali replied that she usually posts an ad in the Arizona Daily Star and the Wildcat.

Rebecca suggested putting up a flier in strategic places.

Magali said that November 6 was the last date to book. She added that the more we wait the, the higher the air fares.

Rebecca added that the people likely to take trip are retired and wealthy.

Magali pointed out that the Martinique trip is not scheduled during the French school holidays. She also underlined that all the Club Med staff is French speaking.

Rebecca asked if we could get ideas from the Atlanta Alliance on how they publicized the trip.

Mary pointed out that people in Atlanta go to the Caribbean whereas people in Tucson go to Mexico. She also said that our price for the Martinique trip was a \$1,000 higher than Atlanta's. She also said added that it was cheaper to go to Tahiti (Bora Bora) than to Martinique.

Rebecca said that Tahiti would be an interesting destination to explore. Magali said that she would ask the travel agent about it.

Magali said that she had met a man from Congo who was willing to talk about his country, food, etc. The conference would be in English as it would be more appealing, but the Q&A could be in both French and English.

Magali asked what we could pay him. Mary said that we could not pay him, but Magali countered that we could get help from the Africana Department at the UofA.

Nina said that we should ask him how much he would charge. Rosann suggested \$30 and \$5 suggested donation.

Rosann commented that the Vanoni lecture was really disorganized.

Christmas.

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Magali suggested that we hold silent auctions. Every Board member would bring something to auction. Magali requested that we tell her in advance what we are bringing. The date suggested for the event is the beginning of December. Nina suggested a Saturday.

It was suggested that the event would not be a potluck with a silent auction and that there is the possibility we could hold it on the terrace. Nina suggested that we sell onion soup, ratatouille and quiches for \$5 a portion.

It was decided that the event would be held Saturday, December 5th from 11 AM to 4 PM.

Rebecca said that we need to maximize visibility in the community by making connections with other entities in the community.

Mary mentioned the book fair at the UoA and said that if we wanted to participate it would take planning.

Website:

Magali said that she updated the website and that she had used a template for the websites. She said that although WordPress was free, hosting was not. Mary added that the current website did not display well on her tablet.

Rebecca said that Ghini's restaurant offers a French dinner every Friday night and that we should add the event to our website. She said that it would also be worthwhile to advertise the conversation group that meets at Ghini's on Thursday. She also mentioned that she would ask Christine about putting a link to Tucson Vous Accueille on our website. She asked: What if someone attended the meet ups to see what they think about us. Someone mentioned that we should hold a potluck once a month. We need 2 people to host it. After the potluck, a group of volunteers would help to clean up.

The prices proposed were bring to a dish or \$5. \$5 for non-members. We should start in January. The 1st Friday of every month. It will be on website as a monthly activity.

It was decided that the potluck would on January 8, 5 to 8 PM. Rebecca volunteered to work for the 8th while Rosann and Mary volunteered to work for February. Not May, I'll be away!

Ideally, we need to get a pro for the website, but its functional and working right now.

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Education

Magali said that the registration for fall was low. There were 3, 4-student classes and 1,6-student class. She pointed out there was a lack of structure in the classes. She also said that she was encountering problems in finding teachers for children.

Rebecca said that it was worth approaching Chadi for conversation class.

Workshops

Last workshop was cancelled. We need to ask Sylvie to do another one. Enrollment for the next workshops is good.

Rebecca said that we should form an education subcommittee of 3 or 4 persons to brainstorm.

Next session begins November 18-December 19 (4 weeks) using the same two teachers.

Financials

September results

Rosann asked whether we are too small to have half-time director or should we have a person working $\frac{3}{4}$ (Should be $\frac{1}{4}$) time who also teaches.

Rosann pointed out that we used \$5,000 out of savings to pay the bills and that we only had \$3,250 left in savings.

Should Magali also teach? Magali doesn't get paid extra for workshops. We should hold two workshops a month in winter. Magali will teach class next session.

It was decided to leave salary questions as is.

Why have students not continued to take classes? We should try to have more workshop from January to April. We need to maximize periods that are strong.

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TMY

Magali said we had a bad Friday? Someone asked whether taking part in TMY was worth it for us. We should focus on the Tucson Festival of Books.

Diane and Rosann concurred that we should not take part in TMY again. Their reasons were that there was no upside except for the camaraderie of the cooking. A cooking class was suggested as way to recreate the camaraderie.

Rosann said that she had made the down payment on the projection system and that we needed to get a laptop. In addition, we need the specs for the computer to make it work with the projection system.

Magali was unable to attend the annual AF meeting in San Francisco due to our budget restrictions.

Signage

The only sign is a banner sign. We need to request permission from the Junior League to put up a sign.

We have collected \$1,250 in connection with the Challenge Grant so far.

By-laws

Annual meeting needs to be held before December 1. We need to notify members 15 days in advance and provide them with the agenda.

Annual meeting will discuss:

- The financial report,
- Results of the Nominating Committee.
- Appoint the Nominating Committee. These people should not currently be on the Board.

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- Ballot by November 15.

We need candidates by November 15 i.e. in 2 weeks. We need to go to membership for volunteers.

C. The Nominating Committee needs 2 weeks to do its job.

Next Meeting: November 11, 2-4 PM.

We will polish what needs to be sent out.

Mary said that the By-laws were not 100% in compliance with the Fondation template.

It was agreed to omit the recording secretary position and put recording secretary duties into the secretary position and to increase the members at large from 2 to 3.

We need to vote changes up to now by e-mail. We need to sign Conflict of Interest statements because we are currently not in compliance. We need to sign one in the following weeks.

Four us representing a quorum approved the changes.

Nina voted yes. We need to review by the end of the week.

Rebecca moved to approve the by-laws. Rosann seconded this motion.

Rebecca moved to void the previous motion and that we would vote by e-mail. The motion was seconded by Octavio.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.